

On behalf of the City of Waterville, I am delighted to accept Colby's gift and to say that we have one, or will have one, to present to Colby as soon as it is framed.

While Colby's bicentennial anniversary played no part in my decision to run for mayor last year, I can honestly say it is my good fortune that the college was granted its charter two hundred years ago so that I have the honor of participating in this year's celebration. I'd also like to point out that while the early 70s were left out of the fabulous film *In Their Footsteps*, those years produced a number of graduates who are still here contributing to Waterville today including Paul Boghossian who rescued one of the city's iconic landmarks in which we are sitting and Bill Alfond who helped assure that low income young children, at a critical time in their brains' development, have accessed to a world class experience at Educare Central Maine. And including our City Manager, Mike Roy who graduated with me in 1974. I think it's a fitting symbol of the 200 year circle of friendship and mutual benefit between the college and the town that during this year the Mayor and the City Manager are products of Colby.

I have to say that while I was attending Colby in the early 70's, I never truly appreciated the College's history or how it was so interwoven with the town's. There was always a sense of being "up on the hill" and we

were not particularly engaged in life in the ville. Over the years, however, I have come to understand the incredible economic and cultural value Colby has provided to Waterville and, thanks to the beautiful film documenting the history of the college, I now have a great appreciation of the part the city played in the college's survival.

Not only did citizens of the city raise the money to buy the land on which the college was initially built in the early 1800's, they also contributed money from their own pockets when Colby's existence was later threatened. In the midst of the depression, when it was determined that in order for the College to survive it needed to move, Colby officials were offered land in Augusta. However, the citizens of Waterville pledged to raise \$100,000 to buy the land needed to keep the College here. They understood not just the sentimental reasons Colby should remain in Waterville, but the negative economic impact losing Colby would have. Colby's own Mayor F. Harold Dubord, a graduate of the class of '03 presented the deed to 600 acres on Mayflower Hill and we are the beneficiaries of that philanthropic support.

Colby has repaid its debts to the City a thousandfold, offering its courses to residents and high school students, opening its lectures, musical and theatrical events, and its libraries and world class museum

at no cost to the public, providing 1000s of volunteers for area nonprofit organizations including the Homeless Shelter, the Humane Society, the soup kitchen and Evening Sandwich program, Barrels Community Market, Waterville Main Street, Hardy Girls Healthy Women and dozens of others. It has developed an outstanding collaboration with area schools helping to mentor youngsters in its Colby Cares About Kids program. In a town with a poverty rate of 23%, in which over 50% of its children are eligible for free and reduced lunch, those human connections are no small contributions.

However, Colby hasn't stopped there. There have been annual gifts to the City, support for economic development organizations, financial support for the arts and culture, an opportunity to experience a rich diversity of people from around the country and around the world, which in a state that is 98% white, is truly a gift. Last but not least, Colby has provided land and money for what will soon be the premier 4 season activity center at Quarry Road, born of the vision of John Koons, a Colby grad who grew up in Waterville and who wanted to provide a place for kids who might not have the ability travel to one, a world class outdoor experience here in their home town.

While I am here to accept this gift, I want to thank Colby for the myriad ways in which it enhances the quality of life here in Waterville,

contributes to our economic health and continues to offer itself in friendship and partnership in our effort to create a vibrant, prosperous Waterville that will continue to draw visitors and, we hope, investors and new residents, from around the world.